

BIOGRAPHY'S

James Gianato

Director

WV Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Governor Joe Manchin appointed Jimmy Gianato, Director of Emergency Services for the State of West Virginia, in September 2005. In his capacity as Director, Mr. Gianato has operational and planning responsibility for the state's response to all emergency and disaster operations and consequence management for incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction and terrorism. During federal disasters, he serves as the Governor's State Coordinating Officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Before assuming his present duties, Mr. Gianato has previously been involved in emergency response for over 30 years. He has served as a firefighter, EMT, and Law-Enforcement official. He received training in Incident Command, the National Incident Management System. He is a certified Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement instructor and has successfully managed numerous nationally declared disasters in McDowell County and has been deployed to other parts of the state to assist with disaster efforts during time of need. He has been a presenter for several organizations and conferences. For example, the 2005 All Hazards Forum, NENA, the American Business Club, and the Association of Public Safety Officials Association and the West Virginia Coal Symposium, just to name a few. He intends to continue to attend training and learn of new and better ways to improve the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the State of West Virginia. He serves on several boards and commissions including the West Virginia Retirement Board, the Commission for National and Community Service and serves as the Chairman of the West Virginia Statewide Addressing and Mapping Board. He has a degree from New River Community and Technical College in Applied Science. He is a member of the Kimball Rotary Club and St. Peter's Catholic Church. He and his wife Markella are the parents of one son, Adam and one grandchild, James Matthew.

The Honorable Bill Byrne

Mayor

City of Morgantown

Mayor Byrne was born in New York City and raised on Long Island, the oldest of six children. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the College of the Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA in 1967 and a Master's in political science from West Virginia University in 1974. Mayor Byrne then received a Juris Doctorate from West Virginia College of law in 1977.

Mayor Byrne was a Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil (1967-1970) and spent another year doing graduate work in Colombia, South America. His first legal position was with Legal Aid and then into private practice (now Byrne, Hedges and Lyons), currently holding a judicial position as the ALJ for the Board of Review, Unemployment Compensation and legal director for the WV Advocates, all of which he is currently doing part time.

Mayor Byrne was elected Mayor July 2009. In his off time he enjoys golf and playing music. He has been married for 39 years to Mimmie Hedges Byrne, Professor in Behavioral Medicine. Mayor and Mrs. Byrne has two grown daughters, Leah Byrne McAllister and Anne Byrne Schellhaus, both living and working in Morgantown with their husbands. His son-in-law is a 2009 graduate of West Virginia University College of Law.

John Bierling

Consultant

Emergency Service Professionals Consulting Group LLC

Fire Chief John J. Bierling, EFO (Retired): John has been in the fire service for more than 44 years. His career began in New York State in 1965 as a volunteer in Middletown, NY and in 1992 John retired as the Deputy Chief of Operations of the City of Newburgh Fire Department. In 2000, after eight years as the Chief of the West Manchester Township Fire and Emergency Services in York Pennsylvania, he decided to turn his attention to teaching. John has a Bachelor's degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City and has been actively teaching emergency responders for more than 36 years. Presently, Chief Bierling is the CEO of **The Incident Management Team (IMT)** [www.IncidentMT.com], a consulting company that teaches incident management and facilitates the OurTown Diorama Incident Command Training Programs throughout the nation. John and his wife Jan travel throughout the country planning and presenting programs to emergency responders, health departments, hospitals, airports, private industry, and local government. He can be reached at John@incidentmt.com.

Dave Dodrill

Outreach Committee Chair

Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee

Dave Dodrill is a volunteer board member and Outreach Committee Chair for the Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee. A native of Richwood, WV, he retired as Vice President of Public Affairs for Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., an interstate natural gas pipeline company. He was responsible for corporate planning at a Columbia subsidiary in Houston. After retiring from Columbia, he worked for the National Institute for Chemical Studies on emergency planning and

environmental projects, including shelter-in-place as a protective action. He is a graduate of Berea College, Berea, KY and hold a Master of Arts in journalism from the University of Iowa.

Larry Zuspan
Administrator
Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee

Larry Zuspan is the current Administrator with the Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee in Charleston, WV. He has been involved with emergency planning since 2003.

Mr. Zuspan was born and raised in Shinnston, West Virginia. He graduated from Staunton Military Academy and attended Fairmont State College.

Mr. Zuspan was employed with Union Carbide Corporation in South Charleston, West Virginia for 28 years. He retired as in Information Technology Project Manager in 2002.

Jeff Harvey
Owner/Project Manager
JH Consulting, LLC

Jeffery Harvey is the owner and operator of JH Consulting, LLC, an emergency preparedness consulting firm in Buckhannon, WV, that specializes in risk assessment, operations planning and the design of training and exercises. He is also the Resource and Planning Officer with the Upshur County Office of Emergency Management, and a member of the Lewis-Upshur Local Emergency Planning Committee. Mr. Harvey's background is in technical writing and strategic leadership and has trained extensively in incident command, crisis leadership and emergency planning for many functions and disciplines.

David Byers
Sergeant
New Martinsville Police Department

David Byers has been with the City of New Martinsville Police Department for 30 years. He currently holds the rank of Sergeant. Since May 2007, he has been the County Coordinator for Project Lifesaver.

Sgt. Byers is a trained Electronic Search Specialist, a State Electronic Search Specialist Instructor, a National Electronic Search Specialist Instructor, an Air Electronic Search Specialist, and an Air Electronic Search Specialist Instructor for Project Lifesaver. He is a member of the Tyler County Search and Rescue Team and the WV Search and Rescue Council.

Sue Patalano
Wood County Sheriff's Office
Project Lifesaver Administrator/Co-State Administrator

Ms. Patalano retired from the American Red Cross of the Mid Ohio Valley as Director of Program Services and Chief Financial Officer, in order to devote the amount of time needed to bring Project Lifesaver to all 55 counties. She is responsible for bringing the program to Wood County and to West Virginia. Ms. Patalano was sworn in as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for the Wood County Sheriff's Office in order to administer either program and share the State Coordinator responsibilities with Sgt. David Westfall of the Wood County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Patalano is a certified Project Lifesaver Electronic Search Specialist, Electronic Search Instructor for West Virginia, Electronic Search Specialist National Instructor, Airborne Electronic Search Specialist and Airborne Electronic Search Specialist National Instructor.

Michelle Cochran
Emergency Planner
WV Bureau for Public Health's
Center for Threat Preparedness

Michelle Cochran is the Emergency Planner in WV Bureau for Public Health's Center for Threat Preparedness. In addition to her responsibilities as planner, she also fills the vacant position of Exercise and Performance Improvement Manager. She has held these roles since October 2007.

Prior to joining the Center for Threat Preparedness, she worked as Readiness Coordinator in the Bureau's Office of Environmental Health Services where she coordinated the environmental health disaster response for West Virginia. She held this position from June 2004 to October 2007.

Michelle's previous other roles in the Office of Environmental Health Services include Sanitarian Training Officer and Registered Sanitarian, conducting inspections in the Infectious Medical Waste and Asbestos Abatement Programs and performing environmental health disaster field response. She began her public health career as a field Sanitarian at a local health department in 1991.

Michelle is a past scholar in the National Environmental Public health Leadership Institute and the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute where she won an award in 2004 for her work in developing the WV Environmental Health Disaster Response Protocol Manual. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Marshall University, with a major in biology and minor in chemistry.

David Farley
Public Safety
CSX, Huntington

Mr. Farley came to CSX from Massey Energy in August 1999. Previous to the railroad, he spent nearly a decade in the mining industry, doing surface, preparation and underground. He was hired with CSX as a clerk and was promoted to yardmaster, then moved into the public service position he holds now.

Mr. Farley has his Master's degree from Marshall University and has been a lifelong resident of the Tri-State area. He has been an Operation Lifesaver presenter/trainer for nearly 5 years.

Martha McElfresh
Assistant CT Coordinator
Threat Preparedness

Ms. McElfresh is a native of Charleston, WV, graduating from West Virginia State College, class of 1978. She spent nine years with WV DEP as a chemist in the Water Resources. She has also spent eighteen years as a chemist and QC Officer/Client Project coordinator in a commercial environmental testing lab. She has spend the last three years with the Threat Preparedness Lab as Assistant CT Coordinator. Ms. EcElfresh's area of expertise is Organic Chemistry.

Thom Kirk
Director
WV Fusion Center

Thomas Lee Kirk was born and raised in Fairmont, West Virginia. He is a graduate of the former Beckley College, where he earned a degree in Art; Bluefield State University, where he graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice; and the West Virginia University College of Law. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute and Northwestern University's School of Staff and Command. He spent four years in the United States Navy during the Viet Nam conflict and then enlisted in the West Virginia State Police. He worked his way up through the ranks obtaining the position of Captain and was placed in charge of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations as its first Bureau Commander.

Thom was appointed as Colonel of the State Police in 1993 and served as Superintendant under Governors Caperton and Underwood until he retired in 1997 after 24 years of service with the State Police.

After his retirement, Thom worked as an attorney with Pullen Knoff Fowler & Flanagan until he accepted the position of Manager of the new Toyota Plant in Buffalo, West Virginia. Thom left West Virginia in 2000 to become the President and CEO of Audio Intelligence Devices in Coral Springs, Florida but soon returned to his home state to open a private law practice in Winfield. In 2005, he accepted a position as Assistant Prosecutor in Putnam County and prosecuted narcotics and major felonies until he accepted the position of Director of the West Virginia Fusion Center under Cabinet Secretary James Spears in March of 2008.

In addition to his full time position at the Intelligence/Fusion Center, Thom teaches at Charleston University and various law enforcement agencies both in state and out of state on the art of Deception Detection Techniques and Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques. He is also admitted to practice law before the United States District Court of both the Northern and Southern Districts of West Virginia, the West Virginia Supreme Court and has practiced and prosecuted cases in numerous West Virginia Circuit Courts.

Thom and his wife Brenda live in Winfield where they enjoy spending time with their son Kris, a Kentucky State Trooper and third generation police officer; his wife Amber, and their three children, Makala, Torin, and Kolten.

Scott Pauley
Deputy Director
WV Fusion Center

Scott Pauley joined the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety in August 2008. He currently serves as Deputy Director of the West Virginia Intelligence/Fusion Center.

Scott's background is in Law Enforcement. After graduating from the WV State Police Academy, he worked for the Putnam County Sheriff's Department for 8 years. Scott served the first two years on road patrol. He served the remaining time as an investigator with the Crime Unit. Scott then continued his work as an investigator with the Prosecuting Attorney of Putnam County for two years.

Scott currently resides in Alum Creek with his wife and daughter.

Dale Petry
Emergency Management Director
Kanawha County

Dale Petry became the Emergency Management Director for Kanawha County in 2006. Prior to becoming director, he was a fire fighter with the City of Charleston Fire Department, retiring at the rank of Captain in 2005. Dale has been a deputized Assistant State Fire Marshal since 1986 and on Montgomery Fire Department in both paid and volunteer capacities since 1975. He is a 1998 graduate of West Virginia State University.